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Animal Science

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2008-2009

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

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Faculty Activities From the Interim Department Head's Desk

As we prepare for the end of the semester and holiday break, we have much to reflect on and to be thankful for here in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska. The department experienced our second year of growth in freshman enrollment this fall, assisting CASNR with record increases in new student enrollment. Part of this success was due to pre-veterinary science students now entering the college through the Animal Science Department rather than through a confusing pre-veterinary non-degree path. This has helped pre-vet students get more guidance in what may be the “best” major for their career goals. Faculty are working hard to provide quality educational activities for our undergraduate and graduate students, despite a smaller-sized faculty and restrained resources and budgets. The cost of maintaining livestock and equine stock has increased substantially over the past year in our program, just as it has for the livestock industry at large. We have made every effort to be fiscally responsible in our management while continuing to offer students hands-on learning experiences in their Animal Science classes. We greatly appreciate the support and donations we have received from our generous alumni during these difficult financial times.

Extra-curricular activities are abundant for our students with diverse interests as you will note as you read this newsletter. Our coaches, advisors and mentors are committed to providing the best learning experiences for students both in and out of the classroom. The opportunities are endless for a student in Animal Science.

Research continues to grow in our department with success in grant funding at both the federal and local levels. We appreciate the support of our commodity boards and organizations to help facilitate this important funding for much needed research projects. Our research is becoming more integrated as we try to understand the complex problems facing animal agriculture in today's global society. It will be a priority for the department to continue our commitment to excellence in research and



Dr. Sheila E. Scheideler

extension as we tackle these problems from the very basic to the most applied approaches.

The future is bright for Animal Science at the University of Nebraska. We will have challenges, but with a dedicated faculty, staff and student body, we are well-prepared to take on those challenges with optimism and success.

Sheila E. Scheideler, Interim Dept. Head

Current Faculty

Ivan Rush Retires

Ivan Rush, who retired at the end of July after 34 years as beef specialist at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Panhandle Research and Extension Center, says he's wanted to work with livestock as long as he can re-



Ivan Rush

member. As a boy on the family dairy in Missouri, he begged his father to let him bottle raise one of the twin calves born to a dairy cow. He decided he wasn't a dairyman after sharing the milking chores, but then his father bought a beef animal, a Hereford cow with a steer calf, and the youngster had his first 4-H project. That project turned into a career of more than 40 years in Extension work related to beef production. In Extension, Rush has been a county agricultural agent in central Nebraska, a livestock specialist in South America, and beef specialist in the Panhandle of Nebraska. He has been active in the beef industry, holding both state and national offices in several organizations. He has received a number of awards at both the state and national level, and has been invited to speak and work in several countries.

After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Missouri, he started work in 1965 as a “typical old-time county agent” in Dawson County. In those days it was policy for the county agent to tag all 300 to 350 4-H calves in the

county at each member's place. I spent a lot of that time with the youngsters, leaders and parents.

After two years at Dawson County, 3 1/2 years in Colombia (where he trained his counterparts as livestock specialists), and four years at Oklahoma State University to get a Ph.D., Rush started at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center on January 2, 1974. "I loaded the U-Haul in Oklahoma in shirt sleeves, and when I got here it was 25 below," he said. "I told people I plugged in the deep freeze to warm up."

Former Panhandle Research and Extension Center Director Bob Fritschen said Rush has been important to the livestock industry, but that is only one facet of his contributions. Fritschen, who was director from 1985-92, said credibility is one of Rush's most important attributes. "He was listened to, believed, and what he did was science-based," said Fritschen, now retired and living in Laurel, Nebraska. Rush never "shot from the hip" with his recommendations. Rush also has been loyal to western Nebraska, Fritschen added. He noted that it's common nowadays for animal science professionals to take their research and results to international venues, but that Rush always put the Panhandle and Nebraska at the top of his priorities. Rush has seen some major changes in U.S. beef production. There's been a shift from smaller to larger producers, especially in the feeding segment. Thirty years ago, there were feedlots on almost all farms in both Scotts Bluff and Dawson Counties. Most are gone now. When Rush started, almost all cattle were Hereford or Angus, and the debate was whether "black baldies," a cross between the two, was even acceptable. Now crossbreeds are accepted by the majority, Rush said. Horses have largely been replaced by all-terrain vehicles, commonly called four-wheelers, on the ranches. And then there's the continued economic squeeze.

"I see costs of raising cattle, as in all of agriculture, continuing to increase, leaving producers having to do more with less time," Rush said. Change and challenges will continue to be a fact of life for beef producers, Rush predicts.

One challenge is environmental concerns that producers must deal with, what he describes as unfunded mandates that don't improve production, performance, efficiency or profitability. Similarly, Rush said there are people opposed to cattle on the land and the consumption of beef. He pointed to the court challenge to the USDA's recent decision to open land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program to grazing. Hiring quality labor will continue to be a challenge, Rush predicted. Production units will be larger for those who will depend on cattle for a living, while some of the owners will have other income sources to continue in the beef business. But Rush also foresees a higher-quality product because of increased opportunities for gaining knowledge about beef production from the cow to the plate. The trend toward international markets will continue, Rush said. Today, a Brazilian company, JBS S.A., which acquired Swift & Co., is the largest processor of cattle in the United States. Energy is a long-term issue that Rush said U.S. citizens need to decide how to approach. If corn is used to produce biofuels, he predicts that a lot fewer animals will be finished prior to slaughter, or at least less grain fed. Rush predicted that the number of animals fed could be reduced by 60 percent if the corn is converted to alcohol, unless other feedstuffs are available.

Research will be needed to address all these challenges, Rush said. Some of the needs he sees:



Ivan and Doris Rush.

- Using byproducts of biofuel production, as well as finding other sources for feed.
- Producing quality beef using more forages.
- The cost-benefit ratio of natural beef, which is raised without hormones or antibiotics. Natural beef currently has only 2 percent of the market, but more people are expected to demand beef that they feel may be healthier for them. "It can be done, we just need to know how much it will cost," he said.
- Food safety. Continued research is needed to ensure that no harmful pathogens reach humans.
- Feed efficiency will continue to be the major area where research is needed.

Nebraska will continue to be a leader in the industry, Rush said. The state has tremendous range resources in the Sandhills and the hardland hills of the west. Even today, Nebraska has corn for feedlots, and if that corn is used to produce fuels, Nebraska will benefit if byproducts from the biofuels can be fed locally. "I've always felt good about the lenders in western Nebraska," Rush added, "and their understanding of the cattle industry. It is a large part of their portfolio. Nebraska will be the beef state for a long time." As for himself, Rush will continue to be involved with the industry. Ivan was a leader at the State and National level in the Integrated Resource Management Educational effort. He plans to continue working with UNL on a quarter-time basis, working with the Pen of Five Integrated Resource Management program, and with research at High Plains Ag Lab. There's also lots to do at home. He said his wife, Doris, has a to-do list that gets longer every year.

He'll continue to work with his own cattle, horses and border collie, and there may be an opportunity to do some international work in Latin America. "I thought retirement would be easy, but it isn't," Rush said. "There will be way too much of the job I'll miss. The main reason is the cattle producers. I will miss them. It's been a joy to have them as friends and associates."

(Contributed and written by David R. Ostdiek, Panhandle Research & Extension Center)

Faculty Activities

New Faculty

Daniel C. Ciobanu will begin his position as Molecular Animal Geneticist in the Animal Science Department January 2009.

He earned his BS from the University of Agricultural Sciences of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, with a major in Animal Science (1992). After he obtained his undergraduate degree, he joined the Animal Genetics Group at the same university as a teaching assistant. There he taught Genetics and Molecular Biology Laboratories for seven years. During that period he enrolled in a PhD program in Genetics and Animal Breeding and in 1999 he earned his PhD degree from the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, Bucharest, Romania. In the fall of that same year, he moved to Ames, where he started his postdoctoral work with Dr. Max Rothschild in the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University. His work was focused on the dissection of genetic factors associated with variation in meat quality in swine. During that period, he discovered a mutation in the gene encoding one of the regulatory subunits of AMP-activated protein kinase that is responsible for the variation in glycogen metabolism and leads to significant differences in pH and meat color in swine (Ciobanu et al., 2001). A patent was awarded to Iowa State University for this discovery. Following his postdoctoral work, he joined PIC North America as a research scientist and for four years he was involved in the development of research strategies and managed molecular projects to assist breeding programs in multiple species. Currently, he works with a group of neurogeneticists led by Dr. Robert W. Williams, at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), and he studies the control of gene expression in mouse brain and other tissues as a biomedical model for behavior and disease in humans.

Dr. Ciobanu's training is in molecular biology with an emphasis on animal genomics. He is interested in applying functional genomics and system genetics to dissect the molecular architecture of complex physiological traits. At the University of Nebraska, he plans to conduct a molecular program focused on the identification of genetic variation responsible for phenotypic differences in disease and stress resistance, reproductive longevity, energy efficiency and behavior. The approach he plans to bring to the University of Nebraska exploits mouse and swine resources in the University and US Meat Animal Research Center and various industry producers in combination with high efficiency mouse models available at UTHSC and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

In addition to Dr. Ciobanu's research program, he plans to develop and teach a graduate course that addresses applications of biotechnology in Animal Breeding and Animal Science. He will participate with other faculty in teaching components of undergraduate courses covering genetics, animal breeding, or



Daniel C. Ciobanu

applications of biotechnologies in animal science. He hopes that his experience from the industry, combined with the one from the academic field, will be an important asset for teaching students and expose them to a vast array of molecular technologies applied to Animal Science.

(Contributed by Dr. Daniel Ciobanu)

American Society of Animal Science Celebrates Its Centennial

The American Society of Animal Science was formed in 1908 and celebrated its 100-year anniversary with special events at the 2008 annual meeting. The "Centennial Meeting" was held in Indianapolis July 7-11 and was a joint meeting with the American Dairy Science Association.

Special events that were a part of the centennial celebration included 38 "Centennial Presentations" interspersed throughout the 4 days of scientific talks. Of these, presenters were UNL Animal Science faculty Don Beermann and Rick Rasby, US MARC scientist and UNL adjunct faculty member Cal Ferrell, and UNL past PhD graduates David Buchanan, Ronnie Green and John Paterson.

A special centennial celebration book, *Change: An Illustrated History of the American Society of Animal Science 1908-2008*, was developed and written by Dr. Richard Willham, Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University. A video developed from the content of the centennial book was presented at the opening session of the July meeting, and this video can be downloaded for viewing from the society Web site (<http://www.asas.org>).

Animal science departments from across the country were invited to display their contributions to this rich, exciting history of animal science. The University of Nebraska proudly participated, using this opportunity to reflect on Nebraska's contributions to the society. The society started as the American Society of Animal Nutrition (1908), and Nebraska department head H. R. Smith was part of the organizing committee. In 1915, the society changed its name to the American Society of Animal Production (ASAP), thus broadening its focus. The last name change to American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) was in 1961. The Journal of Animal Science was first printed in 1942.

Presidents of ASAP and ASAS from the University of Nebraska over these many years have been: H. J. Gramlich (1929), W. J. Loeffel (1936), M. L. Baker (1953), F. H. Baker (1973-74), I. T. Omtvedt (1984-85), E. D. Aberle (1994-95), T. J. Klopfenstein (1998-99) and D. H. Beermann (1999-2000). A highlight for Nebraska during this history was hosting the 65th annual meeting of ASAS in Lincoln, July 29-August 1, 1973. One can learn more about the 1973 meeting by visiting the departmental Web site (<http://www.animalscience.unl.edu>) and clicking on History in the Virtual Visitor's Center.

Our department's members have served in positions of

leadership with the Journal of Animal Science. A. J. Lewis was editor-in-chief (1991-93), and section editor roles have been filled, usually for 3-year terms, by E. R. Peo, Jr., R. M. Koch, R. K. Johnson, M. K. Nielsen, D. Pomp and P. S. Miller. Animal Science at Nebraska has also been at the forefront in serving the Midwest section of ASAS, organized in 1962. Those serving as president of the Midwest section have been: D. R. Zimmerman (1978-80), T. J. Klopfenstein (1988-89), R. K. Johnson (2001-02) and M. K. Nielsen (2007-08).

Recognitions of University of Nebraska faculty by ASAS have also been many. G. E. Dickerson and L. D. Van Vleck have been recipients of the Morrison Award, the highest honor in ASAS. Recipients of other national ASAS awards have been E. D. Aberle, C. H. Adams, D. R. Brink, M. C. Brumm, D. C. Clanton, D. M. Danielson, G. E. Dickerson, R. D. Fritschen, P. Q. Guyer, R. K. Johnson, J. E. Kinder, T. J. Klopfenstein, R. M. Koch, A. J. Lewis, D. G. Levis, L. E. Lucas, T. L. Mader, R. W. Mandigo, M. K. Nielsen and I. G. Rush. With faculty located over the years in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Clay Center, Concord and Lincoln,

Animal Science at the University of Nebraska has led in research, extension and teaching and been a witness to change during a century of progress.

(Contributed by Merlyn Nielsen)

Emeriti Faculty

Bob Fritschen says that he and his wife, Hazel, will be leaving Laurel, Nebraska for the winter and heading to Green Valley, AZ, returning in late March. If you wish to contact Bob or Hazel, you can do so via e-mail at bobnhaz@hotmail.com.

Irv Omtvedt says he is busy serving on several boards, and serving as the Education Committee Chair for the Nebraska/Iowa Kiwanis district and being the Secretary of the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska, Inc., keeps him out of trouble. Irv and his wife, Wanda, have made several short trips to different places since they came back from South America.

Student Activities

Block and Bridle Annual Steak Fry

The Block and Bridle Annual Steak Fry was held on September 5, 2008. The students served close to 241 steaks. People came from a variety of areas; the department head and many faculty from Animal Science assisted with the event. Many others came from other UNL departments. The club members were pleased that the dean from CASNR, Steven Waller, attended. The Steak Fry was a great success and the Club thanks everyone who donated and for all the support. They give a huge thank you to Cargill for supplying the steaks.

Block & Bridle Kids' Day

The annual Block & Bridle Kids' Day event was held Friday, November 7, in the Animal Science Arena area.

It was a very windy, cold day and only eight groups of day-care, preschool and elementary schools braved the weather, but all were given "goodie bags" stuffed by Block & Bridle members for approximately 135 children.

Animals on display included horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, fowl and mice. Children and caregivers had the opportunity to see and learn about animals. They especially enjoyed sitting on the bright red tractor that the Larson Tractor Museum provided.

Those organizations providing resources and donating items for the children's gift bags were: Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Poultry & Egg Division, Nebraska Pork Producers, Nebraska Beef Council, Soybean Board, Corn Board, Wheat



Children checking out some of the animals that were on display at the Block & Bridle Kids' Day event.

Board, Larson Tractor Museum, Animal Science Department and Equine Department.

Dr. Rick Rasby was club advisor for the event. B&B Chairperson of the event **Jake Geis** (Newcastle) was assisted by many B&B members in reception and the arena areas: **Garret Koester** (Wellfleet), **Kelsey Maris** (Prague), **Rebecca Engler** (Nevada, IA), **Amanda Elwess** (Chadron), **Sarah Peterson** (Ord), **Katrina Hackel** (Ord), **Jared Schramm** (Merville, IA), **Anna Geis** (Newcastle), **Jeffrey Epp** (Henderson) and **Annie Doerr** (Creighton).

(Contributed by Nancy Savery)

SEECA Activities Update

SEECA, Students for the Education of Exotic and Companion Animals, a new student organization, will provide an opportunity for students with an interest in companion, exotic, or zoo animals to become acquainted with one another and to improve their knowledge and understanding of these animals.

The club will do this by inviting those involved in a variety of fields to speak at their meetings. Some examples of areas of interest include zoos, animal clinics, and animal nutrition. The December meeting hosted a representative from Husker Cats, a nonprofit organization aimed at care and control of feral cat populations on UNL's City Campus, and the club will host the director of the Lincoln Children's Zoo in February.

In addition, the organization will seek to increase the awareness of companion and exotic animals on campus and within the community. The students will be helping out at a dog expo at the Lancaster Event Center in February, by putting on a dog training seminar, and having a flea dip for animals in the community.

Club officers are President **Kristin Norwood**, (Kearney); Vice President **Allison Leimer**, (Mead); Treasurer **Allie Knoell**, (Crete); Secretary **Taylor Yaw**, (Imperial); and Historian **Laura Murray**, (Omaha).

(Contributed by Kristin Norwood and Dr. Lisa Karr-Lilienthal)

Changes in Dissemination of News to our Supporters

Our Alumni and other friends of the Animal Science Department are very important to us, and we strive to provide ongoing communication. However, the present-day economy has necessitated making some changes in our communications. Our evaluation of the types of communications began last year with the survey that was sent with the newsletter. We thank those of you who responded to the survey and for the many positive and constructive comments.

Because we received so many positive comments about the alumni newsletter, we will continue to publish it, but it will be shorter in length and will be published less frequently. A large part of the newsletter expense is the postage, especially international postage. Therefore, this will be the last issue that is mailed to our international readers. The good news, though, is that all

issues of the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter are accessible via the Animal Science Web page (<http://www.animalscience.unl.edu/index.html>). So, if you are interested in keeping up-to-date on the department, we encourage you to visit our Web site.

In addition, we are excited about some other planned avenues of communication that are being initiated. Our plans are to expand the Animal Science Web page by providing more regular updates and by adding to the history section. We hope you will take a few minutes to access it and take a look at some of the offerings. The front page reports the current news, but there are also links to other departmental Web sites and a number of historical items. Thus far, items in addition to the Alumni Newsletters that you may wish to visit are: Block & Bridle Club annuals (oldest one is 1932), Block & Bridle Club honoree photos and bios, judging team group photos, faculty group photos, facility dedication brochures, the Animal Husbandry 1910-1962 history, and the centennial publication. Take a look....you may find your photo as you surf the Animal Science Department's Web page!

(Contributed by Vicky Kobes)

Judging

2008 Livestock Judging Team

The 2008 University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team finished a strong fall campaign highlighted by UNL being named Champion Team at AK-SAR-BEN and Shantille Kruse being recognized as an Honorable Mention All-American Livestock Judge in the deepest group ever. The team also was rewarded with numerous other achievements during the fall season.

Team members finishing their judging careers include **Annie Doerr**, Creighton; **Kyle Dorn**, Adams; **Garret Koester**, Wellfleet; **Shantille Kruse**, Tecumseh; **Roger Morgan**, Burwell; **Tony Roubal**, North Bend; and **Jason Warner**, Arapahoe.



Livestock Judging Team 2007-2008 — Back row left to right: Matt Ellicott (Coach); Ben Williams (Asst. Coach); Jason Warner, Arapahoe; Shantille Kruse, Tecumseh; Kyle Dorn, Adams; Garret Koester, Wellfleet. Front row left to right: Roger Morgan, Burwell; Annie Doerr, Creighton; and Tony Roubal, North Bend.

The team started their fall season a week prior to classes beginning on campus. Lincoln, NE was the site of the team's first fall contest. On Saturday, August 24, 2008, the team competed at the 3rd Annual Nebraska State Fair Swine Contest. UNL finished 2nd with Jason Warner leading the team with a 5th place overall finish. Three other team members finished in the top ten including Annie Doerr 7th, Kyle Dorn 9th and Garret Koester 10th. The team then looked to increase their cattle judging experience for the fall run, making UNL's first ever trip to an all-cattle contest in northeast WY.

On September 12, 2008, the team competed at the Direct Line Genetics Cattle Contest in Hulett, WY. Roger Morgan had a team-leading day in the overall competition placing 3rd. In placings Roger Morgan was 5th, Jason Warner was 8th, Annie Doerr was 9th and Shantille Kruse was 11th. The team finished 2nd in beef cattle placings. In reasons Annie Doerr was 4th, Jason Warner was 5th, Roger Morgan was 8th, Kyle Dorn was 9th and Tony Roubal was 10th. UNL finished 2nd overall in team reasons. Overall Roger Morgan was 3rd High Individual, Jason Warner was 5th and Annie Doerr was 6th. The team finished 2nd overall.

On September 19th, the team traveled to El Dorado, KS, where they competed in the first ever Butler Flinthills Classic Judging Contest held by Butler Community College. The team was 7th in sheep, 3rd in swine, 6th in beef, 6th in reasons and 6th overall. Individually, several team members had top twenty placings in several categories. Before traveling back to Lincoln the team also judged on September 20th at the Mid-America Classic in Wichita, KS. The team had another solid day placing 5th overall. The team was 5th in sheep, 6th in swine, 5th in beef, 5th in reasons and 6th overall. Individually Kyle Dorn placed 5th in cattle and Jason Warner placed 11th in oral reasons and 15th overall.

On September 27, 2008, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the First Annual AK-SAR-BEN Livestock Judging Contest in Omaha, NE. UNL had an outstanding day on the way to being named Champion Team. In sheep judging the team finished 2nd. Shantille Kruse was 2nd high point individual overall and Tony Roubal finished 10th. In swine judging the team finished 1st. Individually, Kruse was 5th high point individual and Roger Morgan was 10th. In cattle judging the team finished 2nd. Individually, Roubal was 4th high point individual, Kruse was 7th and Annie Doerr was 9th. In oral reasons the team finished 1st. Individually, Shantille Kruse was 3rd high point individual overall, Doerr was 5th and Roubal was 7th. The team finished 1st out of seven overall. Individually Shantille Kruse finished 2nd high individual overall, Tony Roubal was 3rd and Annie Doerr was 14th.

On October 31st the team traveled to Kansas City, MO to compete in the American Royal contest. The team finished 13th in cattle, 12th in swine, 5th in sheep, 12th in reasons, and 11th overall.

On November 17, 2008, the University of Nebraska Livestock Judging Team competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. This contest served as the final national contest for the 2008 team. Shantille Kruse was named Honorable Mention to the All-American Team. In performance sheep judging the team finished 3rd and individually Annie Doerr finished 25th. In swine judging the team finished 15th. In cattle judging the team was 10th. In reasons the team finished 12th. Overall the team finished 14th out of 27 teams. Kyle Dorn led the team with a 34th place finish.

As the 2008 team season comes to a close, the memory of the accomplishments, travels, livestock contacts and friendships gained will remain with the team members for many years to come. Each team member was recognized at least once during the season for their judging talents in a contest. All team members represented the UNL Animal Science Department as a confident and strong program for all to admire. I, along with Ben Williams, am very proud of this year's solid outcome. All members of the livestock judging program would like to recognize the support and generosity of the contributors and sponsors that make this possible each and every season. A sincere thank you from the UNL Livestock Judging Team goes out to the major sponsors, the **Kimmel Foundation, Nebraska Farm Bureau Services, Inc.,** and the **Nebraska Cattlemen's Research and Education Foundation.**

Looking to the future, the junior team is excited to start their season on December 20th at the Express Ranches Contest in Yukon, OK. Team members include **Jimmi Cable** (Pukwana, SD), **McKenzie Chambers** (Mead, CO), **Stacey Guthard** (Litchfield), **Shellie Intermill** (Alliance), **Trey Kellner** (Stockton, KS), **Clint Mickey** (Aurora), **Tom Murphy** (Lincoln), **Jay Nordhausen** (Ogallala), **Mitch Novacek** (David City), **Todd Ostermiller** (La Grange, WY), **Carrie Saur** (Gillette, WY), and **Jason Star** (North Platte). It should be an exciting upcoming year for the team! The team is coached by Matt Ellicott and assisted by Meat Science Master's student Ben Williams of Logansport, Indiana.

(Contributed by Matt Ellicott)

Meat Judging Team

This fall, the UNL Senior Meat Judging Team traveled to three different contests including the Iowa State Invitational in Ames, Iowa, the American Royal in Omaha, Nebraska, and finally the International Meat Judging Contest in Dakota City, Nebraska. Team members include: **Derek Schroeder**, Howells; **Jessalyn Schrock**, Bennet; **Jeff Epp**, Henderson; and **McKenzie Chambers**, Platteville, CO.

Starting off the fall with the Iowa State Contest, McKenzie Chambers placed 13th individually in beef grading. Derek Schroeder placed 11th in total beef judging, and Jessalyn Schrock



Meat Judging Team 2008 — Left to right: McKenzie Chambers, Platteville, CO; Jeff Epp, Henderson; Derek Schroeder, Howells; Jessalyn Schrock, Bennet; and Ace VanDeWalle (Coach).

placed 4th individually in lamb judging. The team placed 1st in summer sausage judging, and 5th overall. The American Royal followed a couple weeks later and Derek Schroeder placed 10th in specifications, 14th in pork judging, and was 18th individually overall. The final contest of the year was the International at Tyson in Dakota City, NE. The team finished 6th in lamb judging. The members of the Senior Meat Judging Team worked hard this fall, and along the way learned many valuable skills, which will greatly help them in their future careers.

(Contributed by Ace VanDeWalle)

Equestrian Team New Season, New Region

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Equestrian Team has started a new season. This year, the team will also be competing in a newly assigned region. Due to growth over the past several years in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA), many of the geographical regions across the United States were redrawn to even out the distribution of members. Schools in Nebraska that were previously members of a region that stretched over Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, have been shifted to the west to a new region, Zone 7, Region 1. The newly defined boundaries now include the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Colby Community College, Colorado College, Laramie County Community College, Nebraska College of Technical

Agriculture, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Southeast Community College, United States Air Force Academy, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Denver, University of Nebraska–Omaha and University of Wyoming.

The Husker Equestrians began their new season by hosting the first two shows of the year at their home facility on UNL's East Campus. The shows brought over 100 riders for competition. With two separate shows taking place in one day, it was a full day for the Huskers, preparing the horses and themselves for competition. However, after the day was over, team members were able to walk away with High Point Team honors for both shows, and High Point Rider for both shows. What a way to start the year!

The team completed their fall season in November by traveling to Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY in early November (results were unavailable at press time). Action for the spring semester starts with an away competition at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, NE on February 14th and 15th. The regular season will finish with another home show for the Huskers on February 21st, followed by Regional Championships at UNL on February 22nd. Shows are open to the public and Husker fans are encouraged to attend! Questions about the shows or the UNL Equestrian Team should be directed to Libby Michaud at llugar2@unl.edu.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in making a donation in support of the UNL Equine Program or the Equestrian Team, please contact Libby Michaud at 402-472-9098 or Kathy Anderson at 402-472-6414.

(Contributed by Libby Michaud)

Alumni News

Updates

Elizabeth (Beth) Maricle, B.S. '06 — Recently began duties as Extension Educator in Adams County. Beth received her Masters Degree in Animal Science in August 2008 from the University of Missouri. Her current position focuses on 4-H Youth Development.

Dr. Steven Pollmann, Ph.D. '79 — Dr. Pollmann recently was promoted to Vice President and General Manager of Western Operations of Murphy-Brown LLC, a subsidiary of Smithfield Foods located in Ames, IA. Steve is responsible for providing leadership and direction in nine western states representing about 400,000 sows. Steve lives in Ankeny, IA and if you would like to contact him you can e-mail him at stevepollmann@yahoo.com.

Dennis L. Nun, B.S. '74, M.S. '75 — Lives in Lincoln with his wife, Patty, where they've based their business, Heartland International, Inc., since 1974. They distribute products manufactured by the Conkin Co. and specifically the FASTRACK® Livestock Probiotic Line that was originally developed in conjunction with the UNL staff back in 1986. The FASTRACK® products are now distributed throughout the U.S., 14 countries in Europe and Israel, by distributors who operate through Heartland International.

Dennis is president of Heartland International, Inc. The Nuns have six children and Patty works as a board certified christian counselor at First Step Wellness Center in Lincoln.

Successful Swine Business Highlights Pillen's Career

Jim Pillen gained statewide fame as a member of championship football teams in the 1970's while studying animal science at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Today he is known for his successful swine operation, Progressive Swine Technologies (PST).

Because he was a standout safety on teams between 1974 and 1979, Pillen had a chance for a professional football career in the NFL, but opted instead for veterinarian school. "I was accepted to vet school and could not take the chance of not receiving the seat later," he said. Jim graduated in 1979 from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with a degree in Animal Science and in 1983 with a DVM from Kansas State University.

A Columbus-area native, Jim returned home after graduating — something he had not planned on doing. A veterinary internship in Los Angeles convinced him he was destined for the big city. The unexpected death of his mother changed his plans and he returned home to join a local practice and then started working with his dad on the family farm.

Jim worked for a year and a half as an equine and small animal veterinarian before starting his own small animal practice, Columbus Animal Center. Large animals were still a passion

of his, however, so he used his farm and animal science background to start a swine consulting business.

He spent a couple days every week working with pork producers on various issues such as swine health, nutrition, and management. He realized that if he could use his advice to help other pork producers become successful, he could operate his own successful swine operation. "An entrepreneurial spirit from my father stimulated me to do that," he said.

Pillen started Progressive Swine Technologies in 1993 with a partner, a handful of employees and 2,500 sows on his home farm. It grew to the point where he was prompted to sell his small animal practice in 1996. PST now employs about 550 people and has 50,000 sows on 28 farms in Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota. Jim calls PST a high-tech food business. "Our timing was really good," he said. "There were a lot of changes taking place that allowed us to implement new technologies."

Jim didn't expect to have his own successful swine business while he was a student at UNL, but credits what he learned with helping make him successful. His College of Agriculture professors helped steer him in the right direction and gave him confidence to accomplish his goals, he said.

"Every time frame of our lives has a great impact on who we are and who we become," he said. "Certainly my university experience had a great impact."

(Excerpted from an article in IANR'S "The Leading Object" written by Lori McGinnis)

Early Experience with Cows Leads Engler to Successful Business

Paul Engler didn't grow up on a farm and never expected he would one day run a successful cattle operation. It wasn't until Engler's father bought four acres of land near their Bassett home and a few dairy cows that he got a taste of farm life. "My dad had grown up on a farm and he thought everyone should know how to milk a cow," Engler said. Now Engler owns the largest world-wide cattle feeding operation, Cactus Feeders, headquartered in Amarillo, Texas.

That early experience with milking cows intrigued Engler, so he took it upon himself to buy 100 head of stocker steers when he was just 12 or 13 years old. He had no money, but the sale barn operator was willing to loan him the money for the steers, which cost about \$150 a head. When he told his mother, she chastised him and warned him that when his father came home he would be punished. To the contrary, his father shook Engler's hand and told him he was proud of him. He says it was one of the most touching moments in his life.

Using the knowledge he had gained from working part-time at a cattle sale barn, Engler ran a feeding operation with the cattle he purchased. After graduating from high school at age 15, he had made enough money to enter the University of Nebraska, where he studied general agriculture, focusing on agronomy and what was then called animal husbandry. While a student he worked and lived at the university's hog farm for more than a year. He decided to be because he didn't know much about pigs and he wanted to learn, plus he got to stay free in the barn so the pigs had someone there when

farrowing. He also worked as an agronomy lab assistant.

Engler graduated in 1950 after studying just seven semesters. He took a government job teaching military veterans who wanted to return to the farm, worked on a ranch owned by his wife's parents, then with a cattle company in Valentine.

The job at Valentine had him buying and selling cattle in Nebraska and Iowa, and put him in touch with one of the largest cattle feeders in the country, Louis Dinklage. Dinklage offered him a job, and though it was for less money, he took it because he saw great potential. He worked for Dinklage for five years. When a business trip took him to Hereford, Texas, he was encouraged to start his own company there. The start of Hereford Feed Yards in 1961 angered Dinklage and the two became estranged. Engler's company became very successful and later merged with another company.

He then took a job with IBP in Sioux City, Iowa, only to find he didn't like the meatpacking business. He returned to Texas in 1975 and started Cactus Feeders. He called Mr. Dinklage and asked for help, and the two renewed their friendship. Cactus Feeders now has 10 feedyards in Texas and Kansas and feeds 1 million cattle a year. The company, which started with about 35 employees, now has more than 500.

Practices he learned while at the university, such as goal setting and learning to study, contributed to his success in the business world, Engler said. The knowledge gained in his agronomy classes proved useful throughout all his jobs, he said. "I really feel I got a lot of value out of my education."

(Excerpted from an article in IANR'S "The Leading Object" written by Lori McGinnis)

Awards and Recognitions

Faculty

Dennis Brink — University of Nebraska–Lincoln Parents Association/Teaching Council Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to Students

Andrea Cupp — American Society of Animal Science Board of Directors

Terry Klopfenstein — Nebraska Cattlemen Recognition Award
Paul Kononoff — Agricultural Research Division Junior Faculty Excellence in Research Award

Rick Rasby — National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges North Central Regional Excellence in Extension Award; and Gamma Sigma Delta Extension Award of Merit

Bryan Reiling — University of Nebraska–Lincoln Parents Association/Teaching Council Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to Students; and Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award of Merit

Ivan Rush — University of Nebraska–Lincoln Emeritus Recognition

Sheila Scheideler — Nebraska Poultry Industries Hall of Fame Award

Dale Van Vleck — University of Nebraska–Lincoln Emeritus Recognition

Janos Zempleni — Gamma Sigma Delta Excellence in Research Award

Extension Educator Affiliates

Jennifer Nixon — National Association of County Agricultural Agents Distinguished Service Award for her extension program in the northern Panhandle region.

Steve Pritchard, Larry Howard, Dennis Bauer, Paul Hay, Noel Mues, and Troy Walz — National Association of County Agricultural Agents Team Award for their Beef Learning Modules.

Brandy Vande Walle — (a team member) National Association of County Agricultural Agents for their Poster on Evaluation of Soybean Population on Yield and Economics for the North Central Region.

Gary Zoubek — Cooperative Extension Division's Chester I. Walters "Extra Mile" Award.

UNL Service Awards

40 years: Vicky Kobes — Department Head Assistant, and **Ivan Rush** — Faculty Member

35 years: Paul Hay — Extension Educator Affiliate

30 years: Dennis Bauer — Extension Educator Affiliate, **Dennis Brink** — Faculty Member, **Rodger Johnson** — Faculty Member, **Ken Rezac** — ARDC Feedlot Employee, and **Bruce Treffer** — Extension Educator Affiliate

20 years: Tom McGargill — ARDC Swine Unit Employee, and **Calvin Schrock** — Meat Lab Manager

15 years: Terri Behl — Secretary, **Ken Cejka** — ARDC Dairy Unit Employee, **Erin Marotz** — ARDC Dairy Unit Manager, and **Leo Sweet** — ARDC Dairy Unit Employee

5 years: Matt Luebbe — Ruminant Nutrition Research Coordinator

Students

Graduate

Alia Aljamal — ARD Widaman Graduate Assistant Award

Crystal Buckner — Folsom Masters Thesis Honorable Mention Recognition

Aaron Cooper — UNL Parents Association/Teaching Council Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to Students

Mark Corrigan — CASNR Nebraska Corn Board Fellowship

Makram Geha — IANR Mohr Fellowship

Will Griffin — ARD Widaman Graduate Assistant Award

Wan-Ling Hsu — Gamma Sigma Delta New Initiate

Jolene Kelzer — ARD Whitmore Travel Grant

Dan Larson — Gamma Sigma Delta Graduate Student New Initiate, and Center for Biotechnology Mohr Award

Mahmoud Masa'deh — ARD Larrick Travel Award, and ARD Skala Fellowship

Nate Meyer — ARD Whitmore Travel Award

Pradeep Krishnan Rajalekshmy — ARD Widaman Graduate Assistant Award

Kelsey Rolfe — Gamma Sigma Delta Graduate Student New Initiate, and ARD Larrick Travel Award

Brittini Swedberg — ARD Skala Fellowship

Mallorie Wilken — Distillers Grains Scholarship and ARD Larrick Travel Award

Undergraduate

Jessica Clowser, Milford — Angus Foundation Scholarship

Kristina Hubbard, Overton — American Dairy Science Association/American Society of Animal Science 2nd Place Award in the national competition of undergraduates for original research.

Emeriti

Elton Aberle — Reciprocal Meat Conference R. C. Pollock Award

Alumni

James Kinder (M.S. '72) — American Society of Animal Science Fellow

Steven Lonergan (Ph.D. '95) — Reciprocal Meat Conference Distinguished Teaching Award

Deb Roeber-VanOverbeke (B.S. '96) — Reciprocal Meat Conference Achievement Award

Call for Information for the 2009 Summer/Fall Issue of the Animal Science Alumni Newsletter

All of us enjoy learning about classmates and other alumni from the Animal Science Department. We ask that you send information about yourself for the next issue of our alumni newsletter. You might include memorable events from your college days, such as classes, club activities, employment, teachers, friends and other items of interest. You might include what you have been doing since leaving campus, such as employment (when and where), participation in community activities, hobbies and other personal details that may be of interest. Please see back page for more information and how you may obtain additional departmental information and activity notices via e-mail.

Your Newsletter Leadership

Earl Ellington (Chair), Ted Doane, Vicky Kobes, Rick Rasby, Duane Reese, Nancy Savery, Minnie Stephens, and Linda White serve as the current departmental newsletter committee. The Animal Science Department has a long history of providing newsletters to its alumni and friends. Each year we hear words of satisfaction from several of you. We certainly encourage you to send us news items and any comments on how we might improve the newsletter.

(e-mail address: mstephens1@unl.edu)

15 and 30 Years Ago in Animal Science...

(Subject to Error)

1980's



Taken from the 1980-81 Block & Bridle Yearbook

Animal Science Faculty (First row, left to right): Foster G. Owen, Charles H. Adams, Dwight F. Stephens, Bobby D. Moser, Phillip H. Cole, Larry L. Larson, Dan E. Bigbee, Irvin T. Omtvedt, Head of Department, Dave Williams, Emeritus. **(Second row):** Dwight H. Loveday, Don J. Kubik, Robert A. Britton, Dennis R. Brink. **(Third row):** Franklin E. Eldridge. **(Fourth row, left to right):** Merlyn K. Nielsen, John K. Ward, Paul Q. Guyer, Gary L. Bennett. **(Fifth row):** Mary M. Beck, Ted H. Doane, Gordon E. Dickerson, Jim E. Kinder. **(Sixth row):** Austin J. Lewis, Dwane R. Zimmerman, Rodger K. Johnson. **(Seventh row):** Ernest R. Peo, Jr., Terry J. Klopfenstein, Keith E. Gilster, James A. Gosey, Roger W. Mandigo.



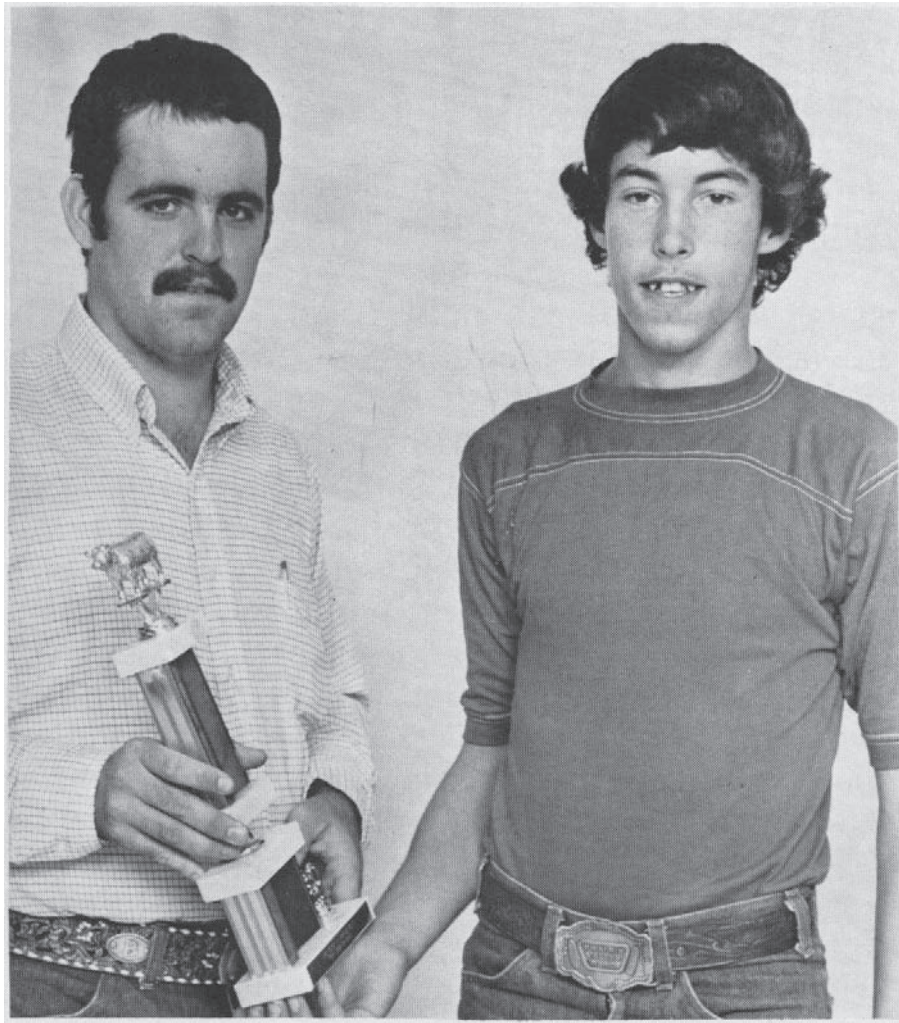
Block & Bridle Club Officers (second semester)

Left to right (sitting): Ann Henderson, Treasurer; Cindy Cammack, Historian; Willow Krause, Vice-President; Brenda Jespersen, Asst. Historian; Douglas Frels, Program Chairman. (Standing): Deb Hamernik, Secretary; Craig Uden, Asst. Marshal; Jeff Miller, Marshal; and Don Kracke, President.



Steak Fry (fall)

Committee members Roberta Barr and Susie Larson hard at work.



State Fair Beef Carcass Contest
Dave Oldfather, Block & Bridle President, and Mark Robinson.



1981 Block & Bridle Queen Candidates
Left to right: Sandy Johnson, Cindy Cammack, Jayne Witte, Jane Pauley, and Leanne Winget.



1980 Dairy Judging Team

Front row, left to right: Shawn Mohr, Byron Schmidt, Sheila Eipperle. Back row: Deanna Volle, Coach Dr. Franklin Eldridge, Penni Price, and Mike Bachuss.

You've always said
someday you'll give
something back to
the college that
gave you so much.

How about now?

Please contact Ann Bruntz
IANR Director of Development
402-458-1176
abruntz@nufoundation.org

Alumni Information

PLEASE NOTE: In an attempt to improve our contact with alumni, the Department of Animal Science is in the process of developing an alumni e-mail listserve. If you would like to receive more frequent updates and news about the Department including upcoming events, please send us your e-mail address.

To keep us informed of your location, professional involvement and items of interest, please complete the following information sheet and return it to Vicky Kobes, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, C203 Animal Science, P.O. Box 830908, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908; e-mail: vkobes1@unl.edu. Should you know of Animal Science alumni who are not receiving this newsletter, please let us know how we may contact them.

Name _____ Date of Graduation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail_____

Position, Company, Address:

News Items, Comments, etc.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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